

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 05637 090841Z

14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /072 W

----- 055217

O 090625Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6379

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 1430

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5637

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SENATOR CLARK PRESS CONFERENCE JOHANNESBURG DEC 7,
AND PRESS REACTION DEC 8.

SUMMARY: CLARK HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JOHANNESBURG AIRPORT
TUESDAY NIGHT PRIOR DEPARTURE TO ZAIRE. CLARK DISTRIBUTED COPIES
OF STATEMENT WHICH FORMED BASIS OF HIS COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN
IN CAPE TOWN (SEE CT 1227) AND JOHANNESBURG, THEN FIELDDED
QUESTIONS. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS MADE IN Q
AND A SESSION.

1. SENATOR STRESSED HE SPOKE ONLY FOR HIMSELF, NOT FOR
CONGRESS OR INCOMING ADMINISTRATION.

2. CLARK SAID HE HAD MET PEOPLE IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE IN RSA
BUT OBJECTIVE WAS NOT INTERFERENCE OR PRESCRIPTION. HE
WANTED TO OBSERVE NATURE OF RSA SOCIETY SINCE INTERSTATE
RELATIONS " BOUND TO BE AFFECTED BY THE NATURE OF THE SOCIETY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 05637 090841Z

WITH WHICH ONE IS DEALING."

3. ON MAJORITY RULE, CLARK SAID USA SOUGHT PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, " OBVIOUSLY RSA ITSELF IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF SITUATION, MAYBE NOT IN PRINCIPLE BUT IN TERMS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND FACT." HE SAID THE NOTION OF MAJORITY RULE "HAS VALID MEANING BUT I PREFER TO SEE IT IN TERMS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL, EQUAL PROTECTION OF RIGHTS, REGARDLESS OF RACE. THAT OUGHT TO BE OUR GOAL. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW, EQUALITY OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES-- TO ME THAT'S A BETTER WAY TO TACKLE THE ISSUE THAN TRYING TO DEFINE WHAT A MAJORITY MEANS OR WHAT A MINORITY MEANS." HE SAID HE WOULD NOT PRESCRIBE A FORM OF GOVT APPROPRIATE FOR RSA OR ANY OTHER STATE.

4. ASKED IF HE RECOGNIZED COMPLEXITY OF MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY, SENATOR AGREED THIS WAS " VERY COMPLEX" ISSUE. HE SPOKE OF BLENDING OF PEOPLES IN USA. " THE USA IS NOT RSA. BUT TO HAVE A UNITED NATION, ONE MUST WORK TOWARDS SOME KIND OF AMALGAMATION WITH EMPHASIS ON MUTUAL CONCERNS OF PEOPLE WITHIN A NATION RATHER THAN EMPHASIZING THE DIVERSITIES FORER INTO THE FUTURE."

5. ASKED ABOUT "THE PROBLEM OF TIME" CLARK SAID "PEOPLE INSIDE RSA AND OTHERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN IT SEEK VERY CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT MEANINGFUL CHANGE IS ON THE WAY. THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST SOME DISCUSSION OF THE IDEA THAT SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND ETERNAL DIFFERENCES ARE NOT THE GOAL OF RSA, BUT THAT THERE ARE OTHER GOALS."

6. ASKED IF HE SAW ANY EVIDENCE OF MEANINGFUL CHANGE, CLARK SAID HE COULD NOT HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED BY THE " GREAT DEBATE" GOING ON IN RSA AND BY " THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS WHO WANT CHANGE, AND NOT JUST COSMETIC CHANGE." HE BELIEVED A NUMBER OF BUSINESSMEN, ACADEMICS AND CHURCH LEADERS, INCLUDING AFRIKANERS " SEE A NECESSITY FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE. PEOPLE IN POLITICAL LIFE, IN GOVT, CANNOT IGNORE THOSE DEEP-SEATED DESIRES FOR CHANGE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THOSE HOPES COME FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE INFLUENCE AND POWER. POLITICIANS DON'T STAY IN POWER FOREVER IF THEY DON'T BEGIN TO ADJUST TO CHANGING TIMES."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 05637 090841Z

7. ON QUESTION OF RESTRICTING VISAS FOR SOUTH AFRICANS DESIRING TO VISIT USA, CLARK WANTED TO HAVE "A VERY CLOSE LOOK AT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT BEFORE MAKING UP MY MIND. I AM VERY CONCERNED THAT NOT ALL AMERICANS ARE FREE TO TRAVEL IN RSA."

8. ON THE BYRD AMENDMENT, CLARK SAID HE WAS " CONFIDENT"

THIS WOULD BE REPEALED EARLY IN THE NEXT SESSION AND SAID HE ADVISED PM SMITH ACCORDINGLY.

9. MEDIA REACTION VARIED. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "BEELED" AND CONSERVATIVE ENGLISH PAPER "THE CITIZEN" AND CAPE TOWN AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE BURGER" STRESSED IN THEIR REPORTS THAT CLARK WAS IMPRESSED BY THE "GREAT DEBATE, IN RSA, CONCEDED THE "COMPLEXITY" OF THE SITUATION, AND DID NOT WISH TO "PRESCRIBE" TO SAG. SABC RADIO NEWSCASTS TOOK SIMILAR LINE.

10. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS (PRO-SAG) PAPER "DIE TRANSVALER" RAN HIGHLY CRITICAL EDITORIAL..."SENATOR CLARK IS AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN VISITOR AND COULD EXERT REAL INFLUENCE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN RSA AND USA. THUS WE ARE AMAZED AT THE SHORT-SIGHTED AND NAIVE NATURE OF HIS UTTERANCES HERE. HIS SOLUTIONS FOR RSA PROBLEMS ARE SO SIMPLISTIC THAT EVEN A JUVENILE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAN, WHITE OR BLACK, COULD NOT TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY. WE CANNOT BELIEVE HIS IS SERIOUS WHEN HE ASSERTS USA WOULD BE UNWILLING TO ASSIST RSA IN STOPPING THE COMUNISTS. HE SHOULD KNOW THE RUSSIANS WILL NOT STOP AT RSA. THEIR REAL OBJECTIVE IS THE USA, AND THE WEST CANNOT AFFORD TO THROW RSA TO THE WOLVES." EDITORIAL ACCOMPANIED BY CIRITICAL CARTOON SHOWING CLARK GAZING COMPLACENTLY INTO DISTANCE UNAWARE OF VORACIOUS RUSSIAN BEAR CREEPING UP BEHIND.

1. DIFFERENT EDITORIAL TONE IN JOHANNESBURG'S LIBERAL "RAND DAILY MAIL". PAPER SAID CLARK "HAS NOT SAID MUCH ON HIS AFRICA TOUR BUT HE HAS DONE A POWERFUL LOT OF LISTENING, WHICH INCLUDES RECEIVING AN EAR-BASHING FROM MR VORSTER. SO FAR AS WE CAN GAUGE, SENATOR CLARK IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAR MINDED MAN WHO WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PRETOR 05637 090841Z

LIKE TO SEE USA FOREIGN POLICY MORE POSITIVELY ENCOURAGED THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA AND A GREATER DEGREE OF RACIAL EQUALITY. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THE ENORMITY OF THE PROBLEMS HERE AND HAS NOT READY SOLUTIONS BUT RECOGNIZES THAT THE RACES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY POLARIZED AND SOMETHING MUST BE DONE "TO BRING THE 25 MILLION PEOPLE OF RSA INTO SOME KIND OF COMMON PURPOSE OF COMMON UNITY." IF MEANINGFUL CHANGE OCCURS, SAYS CLRAK, THEN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL IMPORVE, IF NOT, THEY WILL INEVITABLE SOUR. THE SENATOR WILL CLEARLY URGE HIS GOVT TO HELP THE PROCESS OF CHANGE BUT EVEN AMERICA'S POWERS OF PERSUASION ARE LIMITED. ULTIMATELY IT IS UP TO US."

12. SAME PAPER CARRIED "EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW BY DENNIS GORDON IN WHICH SENATOR REITREATED MOST POINTS MADE

IN DISTRIBUTED STATEMENT. OTHER THAN THAT, CLARK
QUOTED SAYING..."THERE IS INCREASED INTEREST IN AFRICA
BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE THE ACTION IS. ITS WHERE MUCH OF
THE HISTORY OF THIS NEXT DECADE IS GOING TO BE WRITTEN
AND IT IS IMPORTANT PROMARILY BECAUSE OF THE STRUGGLE OF
THE PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH THEIR INDEPENDENCE. THE STRUGGLE
IS ALMOST COMPLETED AND YET ON THE SOUTHERN TIP,
PARTICULARLY IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND RSA THE STRUGGLE
GOES ON... THE USA HAS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE AREAS OF
CONFLICT AND INJUSTICES AND HAS TO BE INVOLVED WITH
THESE MATTERS DIPLOMATICALLY... DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC
LEVERAGE COULD BE USED, NOT IN AN INORDINATE OR IMPROPER
WAY, BUT IN A QUIET WAY.. USA INFLUENCE SHOULD COME
NOT IN A MILITARY WAY, NOT IN AN AGGRESSIVE WAY, BUT IN
A DIPLOMATIC WAY".
HUGHES

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR05637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-1003
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761258/aaaabxwd.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR CLARK PRESS CONFERENCE JOHANNESBURG DEC 7, AND PRESS REACTION DEC 8. SUMMARY: CLARK HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JOHANNESBURG
TAGS: SOPN, OREP, PINT, SF, (CLARK, DICK)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006